



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD
CHARGES IN CAMPGROUND BROKER FRAUD**

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that DAVID ALBERT CANNON pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge Thomas B. McCoun, III to mail fraud. The charge carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

CANNON entered his plea of guilty to Count One of an indictment which the United States filed on October 15, 1997. According to the indictment and plea agreement and testimony at the guilty plea hearing, CANNON operated a business called Tampa Bay Campground Brokers ("TBCB") located in Oldsmar, Florida. During his operation of the business, he sought clients who would use TBCB to re-sell their campground memberships. The company indicated that it had clients ready to purchase these memberships and charged the sellers of these memberships an advanced fee for the brokering of such sales. TBCB further promised to refund the fee it had charged the seller in the event that the sale did not take place. In reality, there were no such guaranteed

buyers of these memberships and TBCB never refunded any of the advanced fees it collected through the mails from its clients. The total loss to all TBCB clients from this scheme is estimated to be approximately \$175,000.00.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.